GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1527
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Amendments to Legal Metrology
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 to enhance consumer protection and for requirement of ease of doing business;
(b) if so, the salient features of the amendments;
(c) whether the Government has changed definition of the term "Institutional Consumer" to prevent any scope for commercial transaction/retail sale of commodities sourced by the institution for their own use; and
(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a) & (b) : Yes, the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 have been amended vide GSR 629 (E) dated 23rd June, 2017. The said amendment will come into force w.e.f. 1st January, 2018 to enhance consumer protection and for requirement of ease of doing business. The salient features of the said amendment are:
? Goods displayed by the seller on-ecommerce platform shall contain declarations required under the rules.
? Specific mention is made in the rules that no person shall declare different MRPs (dual MRP) on an identical pre-packaged commodity.
? Size of letters and numerals for making declaration is increased, so that consumer can easily read the same.
? The net quantity checking is made more scientific.
? Bar Code/QR Coding are allowed on voluntarily basis.
? Provisions regarding declarations on Food Products have been harmonized with regulation under the Food Safety & Standards Act.
? Medical devices which are declared as drugs are brought into the purview of declarations to be made under the rules.
(c) & (d) : Yes, the definition of the term " Institutional Consumer" has been changed, as follows:

"institutional consumer" means the institution which buys packaged commodities bearing a declaration 'not for retail sale', directly from the manufacturer or from an importer or from wholesale dealer for use by that institution and not for commercial or trade purposes"

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